121 in the direction B, so that the battery unit 22 is sandwiched in the display screen 14 as shown in FIG. 5.

[0051] As mentioned before, the display screen 14 is folded with its part close to the pivot 11 curved, which creates space around the inside of the folded display screen. According to the second embodiment, the battery unit 22 is arranged in the space, thus enhancing compactness and portability when the display screen is folded.

[0052] In order to prevent scratches on the display screen, it is favorable to use material such as elastomer for the outer packaging of the battery unit 22, or to apply surface treatment with soft materials such as rubber coating. The same is true in each of the other units which will be described from now on.

[0053] FIG. 6 is an external perspective view of an image display apparatus when it is opened according to a third embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the image display apparatus shown in FIG. 6 when it is closed.

[0054] The image display apparatus according to the third embodiment shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 also has a battery unit 32 linked through a pivot 31 to the frame 121. According to the second embodiment the battery unit 22 is linked to the frame 122 through the pivot 21 which is parallel to the pivot 11, a link between the two frames 121 and 122 as shown in FIG. 4. However, in the image display apparatus 30 according to the third embodiment shown in FIGS. 6 and 7, the battery unit 32 is linked to the side-edge of the frame 121 through the pivot 31 which is perpendicular to the pivot 11. Similarly to the second embodiment, the battery unit 32 according to the third embodiment can pivot between a housed position where it is placed on the display screen 14 by being pivoted in the direction of the arrow A and a position in use where it is opened from the display screen 14 as shown in FIG. 6. The battery unit 32 in the housed position is further housed by closing the frame 122 in the direction of the arrow B, so that the battery unit 32 is sandwiched in the display screen 14 as shown in FIG. 7.

[0055] The folding method according to the third embodiment also enhances compactness and portability.

[0056] FIG. 8 shows an image display apparatus when it is opened according to a fourth embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 9 shows the image display apparatus when it is closed according to the fourth embodiment.

[0057] The image display apparatus 40 according to the fourth embodiment has an operation unit 42 and a memory drive unit 44. The operation unit 42 is connected to the side-edge of the frame 121 through a pivot 41 and the memory drive unit 44 is connected to the side-edge of the other frame 122 through a pivot 43. The operation unit 42 is provided with various operation buttons to input instructions to the image display apparatus 40. The memory drive unit 44, when loaded with a memory 45, captures the image stored in the memory 45. The captured image is displayed on the display screen 14.

[0058] The operation unit 42 and the memory drive unit 44 can pivot between a housed position where they are placed on the display screen 14 by being pivoted in the direction respectively indicated by the arrows A and B and a position in use where they are opened from the display screen 14 as shown in FIG. 8.

[0059] In the fourth embodiment, the display screen 14 can remain upright by opening the operation unit 42 and the memory drive unit 44 by 90 degrees relative to the display screen 14.

[0060] The operation unit 42 and the memory drive unit 44 which are placed on the display screen 14 after being pivoted respectively in the direction of the arrow A and arrow B, are further housed by closing the frame 122 in the direction of the arrow C, so that the operation unit 42 and the memory drive unit 44 are sandwiched in the display screen 14 as shown in FIG. 9.

[0061] FIG. 10 shows an image display apparatus according to a fifth embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 11 shows an example on how the image display apparatus according to the fifth embodiment is used.

[0062] The image display apparatus 50 has a camera unit 52 which is connected to the end-edge of the frame 122 through a pivot 51.

[0063] The camera unit 52 is equipped with an image taking lens 521 through which object light is caught to generate an image signal in an image pickup device (not shown). In addition, the other frame 121 is provided with a flash emitter 53 emitting flash at the time of shooting, thus enabling shooting even in a dark place.

[0064] The display screen 14 displays an image based on the image signal obtained by shooting using the camera unit 52.

[0065] The camera unit 52 can pivot between a housed position where it is placed on the display screen 14 by being pivoted in the direction of the arrow A and a position in use where it is opened from the housed position as shown in FIG. 10. The camera unit 52 in the housed position is further housed by closing the frame 122 in the direction of the arrow B, so that the camera unit 52 is sandwiched in the display screen 14, which is almost similar to the state shown in FIG. 9.

[0066] FIG. 12 shows an image display apparatus according to a sixth embodiment of the present invention.

[0067] The image display apparatus 60 according to the sixth embodiment has a drive unit 62 connected to the end-edge of the frame 122 through a pivot 61. The drive unit 62 has a built-in driving circuit 621 whose function is to drive the display screen 14, together with various circuits loaded into the circuit board 16 in order to display various images on the display screen 14. FIG. 12 also shows a camera unit 65 consisting of an image taking lens 63 and an image pickup device 64 which are loaded into the frame 121.

[0068] The drive unit 62 can pivot between a housed position where it is placed on the display screen 14 by being pivoted in the direction of the arrow A and a position in use where it is opened from the housed position as shown in FIG. 12. The drive unit 62 in the housed position is further housed by closing the frame 121 in the direction of the arrow B, so that the drive unit 62 is sandwiched in the display screen 14, which is almost similar to the state shown in FIG. 3.

[0069] FIG. 13 shows an image display apparatus according to a seventh embodiment of the present invention.